**Biotech Research Centre in Kerala**

1848. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority of Kerala had submitted a project during May, 2008 to Department of Biotechnology for establishing Biotech Research Centre (BRC) in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of above project;

(d) what steps will be taken in affirmative to above submission regarding BRC; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir, a proposal for establishment of Biotech Research Centre in Kerala submitted by Kerala Biotechnology Commission, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment was received in the Department of Biotechnology in June, 2008.

(b) The major objective of the proposal was to establish a centre of excellence in biotechnology which provides state-of-the-art equipment and expertise to support, accelerate research process and services and training in biotechnology.

(c) to (e) The proposal has been examined in the Department. Since there are neither deliverables nor a well defined focus, the Department is unable to fund the same. Moreover, the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) at Thiruvananthapuram has been taken over by the Department and objectives outlined for the proposed centre are already being addressed by RGCB.

**CSIR sanctioning fund on soft term to R and D companies**

†1849. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has sanctioned funds on soft terms to various companies for research and development purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for sanctioning of loans;

(d) the number of companies which have been provided with loans alongwith the term of loans and the name of project;

(e) the present status of the recovery of loans;

(f) whether any company has turned sick after the disbursement of loan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.